

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 1, 2008. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 2-9 and 11-14 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 1 and 10 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claims 2-5 and 11-14 are being amended.

All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for holding that claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants further thank the Examiner for holding that claims 6-9 are allowed.

As set forth above, claims 2 and 11 are being rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, allowance of claims 2, 11 and their dependent claims 3 and 12 is respectfully solicited.

Applicants will point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action.

Prior Art Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102(b)/103(a) Rejections

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Liddy et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,221). Claims 4 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Liddy.

As mentioned above, claims 1 and 10 are being cancelled, and therefore, the rejection of claims 1 and 10 is moot. As to dependent claims 4 and 13, the base claim being allowable as set forth above, claims 4 and 13 must also be allowable.

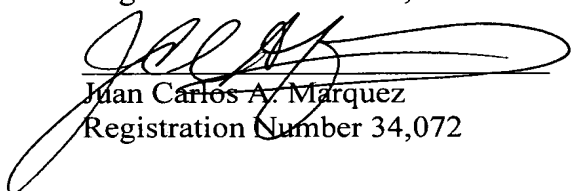
Conclusion

In light of the Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action with regard to the present application, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stanley P. Fisher  
Registration Number 24,344

  
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Juan Carlos A. Marquez  
Registration Number 34,072

**REED SMITH LLP**  
3110 Fairview Park Drive  
Suite 1400  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042  
(703) 641-4200

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SPF/JCM/YOM